



Centers 13-18: Helping Writers Understand the Dispositions

Background:

One of the greatest challenges we face when writers and teachers first join Studio is helping them consider Dispositions as they pursue development of process and craft. The words alone are difficult for some to grasp. We find that it's important to build basic understandings first, and once this is accomplished, writers are able to begin setting goals and noticing the Dispositions at work inside their lives as writers and our community as a whole.

How We Used the Work Included in this Center:

Studio writers began by exploring the Dispositions as vocabulary words first. They collected photographs, newspaper articles, and memories of their own that demonstrated the Dispositions at work in the world. Journal reflections, photographs of Studio experiences, and anecdotes gleaned from conferences helped writers notice the Dispositions at work in themselves and in our community as well. Centers 13-18 provide a portrait of what this work looked like, as well as added materials and activities provided to young writers beginning to explore the Dispositions.

Think and Ink:

What are the promising practices that you use to help students understand new vocabulary words and concepts? How would you measure the growth of Dispositions in your own classroom? What activities could be added to these centers? Please reflect and share on the Think and Ink sheet provided.

